Reverse Integration in Wheelchair Basketball: A Facilitator of Occupational Therapists Competencies?

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**Background**

- Wheelchair basketball (WCBB) is designed for participants with a physical impairment that requires them to use a wheelchair for everyday life.
- The inclusion of able bodied individuals in wheelchair sport is termed ‘Reverse Integration’ (RI).
- RI is defined as the integration of “athletes without impairment in a sport traditionally aimed at athletes with an impairment.”

**Benefits of Reverse Integration**

**Physical Factors**
- Increased physical activity
- Provide physical activity for able bodied athletes with debilitating lower body injuries.

**Mental Factors**
- Increased mental health

**Social Factors**
- Increased opportunities for socialisation
- Social Inclusion

**Research Question**

How does reverse integration in wheelchair basketball develop professional competencies in occupational therapy students?

**Research Method**

- Participant Recruitment: An announcement was sent to approximately 200 occupational therapy students
- Initial Survey: 3 participants responded and completed a 12 questions questionnaire collecting demographic data and previous sporting experiences.
- Semi-Structured Interview: Following participating in two wheelchair basketball sessions, a 10-minute semi-structured interview was conducted. Questions were targeted towards the SPEF-R competencies
- Thematic Analysis: Themes will be identified following thematic analysis

**Results**

Following the semi-structured interviews, responses are were thematically analysed. Themes were thematically analysed from the participants verbatim responses. The themes analysed are as follows:
- Playing WCBB as an able-bodied person
- Health benefits of participating in WWCB
- Perception of disability stigma when participating in WWCB
- Educational benefits relating to OT core competencies (SPEF-r 23) from participating in WWCB

**Innovation**

- Two RI workshops conducted a week apart provided participants opportunity to learn and practice WCBB, and identify the benefits they obtained from participation. The workshops were facilitated by the Suncoast Spinners.
- Research report to be provided to Stakeholders upon completion.

**Proposed Evaluation**

Areas of further study would be provided to Suncoast spinners along side a summary of our research data itemized in a report to enable further evaluation of the effectiveness of the RI workshop programs.

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